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| (21) International Application Number: PCT/AU97/00400 (22) International Filing Date: 24 June 1997 (24.06.97) (30) Priority Data: PO 0705 27 June 1996 (27.06.96) AU (71)(72) Applicants and Inventors: GARTNER, Bradley, Francis [AU/AU]; 36 Taunton Street, East Doncaster, VIC 3109 (AU). HANSEN, Rikard, Darrell [AU/AU]; 15 Coolabah Grove, Berwick, VIC 3806 (AU). (74) Agent: STRICKLAND, R., J.; Griffith Hack, 509 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne, VIC 3004 (AU). | | (81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published With international search report. | |
| (54) Title: CLOSURE CAP HAVING BLISTER PACK RUPTURABLE UPON OPENING OF CAP | | | |
| (57) Abstract <p>A closure cap (21) having therein a blister pack (23) in which an additive, which may be a tablet (8), is retained to be released into the liquid contents of an associated bottle (25) simultaneously upon opening of the closure cap and the rupturing of said blister pack by part (3) of a closure member (21) and forming part of the closure cap, whereafter the contents of the container may be dispensed either through the closure cap or after removal of the closure cap.</p> | | | |
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CLOSURE CAP HAVING BLISTER PACK RUPTURABLE UPON OPENING OF
CAP

Technical Field

5 The present invention relates to a closure cap
for a drink container, and a drink container carrying such
a closure cap.

 The closure cap may be associated with a drink
container in which a base liquid is received and into
10 which an additive is to dispensed. The additive, may be a
vitamin and/or electrolyte supplement as may be consumed
by a sportsperson, or an antacid or stomach settling
compound, and either in liquid, powdered or dissolvable
tablet form.

15 The primary object of the invention is to retain
the additive in the closure and isolate it from the base
liquid until such time as the drink is to be consumed, at
which time the additive is released into the base liquid.

Background Art

20 It is known to provide a closure cap for a
container which allows two substances to be mixed to form
a single composite product. Such containers are often
used in dentistry or medicine to keep two reagents
separate until they are to be used. AU-37210/89 discloses
25 a cap with a push-button that releases an additive when
pressed. The composite product is subsequently dispensed
by unscrewing the closure cap. US4131208 discloses a
screw cap which mixes two substances when the cap is
rotated.

30 It is also known to provide drink containers
which allow the combination of two ingredients. GB
2211479 discloses a device for storing mixed drinks where
the ingredients are stored in two separate compartments
separated by a partition which is ruptured by a punch
35 prior to consumption. US 4399158 discloses a container in
which an additive is secured within a holder which is held
closed by internal pressure until the can is opened at



which time the additive is released into the beverage. AU 84745/82 discloses a dual compartment beverage container wherein the dividing diaphragm is ruptured by the interaction of a drinking straw with a cutting tool.

5 Disclosure Of The Invention

In accordance with the invention there is provided a closure cap having a compartment for retaining an additive, the closure cap having a first portion and a body portion defining a push-pull mechanism, said first
10 portion having an aperture, whereby opening of the cap is achieved by pulling said first portion relative to said body portion to an open position, and any additive is released from the compartment, whereby, in use any such additive is released into an associated container having
15 liquid contents, whereafter the contents of the associated container may be dispensed through said aperture, and wherein closing of the closure cap may be achieved by pushing said first portion relative to said body portion to a closed position, in which said aperture is closed
20 whereafter spillage of the contents of the associated container will not occur.

One advantage of incorporating the means for retaining the additive in the closure cap is that the device may be used in conjunction with a standard drink
25 bottle, hence reducing production costs. A further advantage is that causing mixing and allowing dispensing may be achieved by the same action.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention the closure cap is used in conjunction with a carbonated or



still colourless drink product contained in a clear bottle. A tablet is retained within the closure cap which effervesces when released into the drink product. The tablet may typically contain colour, flavour, vitamin
5 substitutes, non-prescription medication or a combination thereof, which are mixed with the base liquid of the drink product by the effervescing of the tablet and by shaking the bottle. Also, there is the opportunity to keep the flavouring, colouring, vitamins or medicines separate from
10 the drink until the moment of consumption hence allowing flavours, colours, vitamins or medicines which would normally not keep for a long duration to be used, or alternatively to reduce the amount of preservative used in the drink product.

15 Brief Description Of The Drawings

One preferred embodiment of the invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which;

Figure 1 is a longitudinal cross-sectional view
20 through the closure cap of this preferred embodiment of the invention and in a preliminary condition as applied to the neck of a drink container, such as a neck of a plastics or glass bottle,

Figure 2 is a longitudinal cross-sectional view
25 of the closure cap of Figure 1, but in the process of actuation to release an additive into the base liquid contents of the bottle, and to allow dispensing or consumption of the liquid contents of the associated bottle, and

30 Figure 3 is an exploded perspective view of some of the components of the closure cap of Figures 1 and 2.

Best Mode For Carrying Out The Invention

With reference to the drawings, in this preferred embodiment the closure cap comprises a screw cap 2; a



closure member 21; and a blister pack 23 containing a tablet 8. The screw cap 2 is adapted to be screwed onto the neck of a bottle 25 in the conventional manner and is preferably made from a recyclable plastic material. The screw cap 2 is constructed in a stepped cylindrical manner with two or more cylindrical sections. The bottom cylindrical section 12 contains the screw thread 15 and is dimensioned to correspond with the bottle. The top cylindrical section 14 is of a smaller diameter. The screw cap also includes a central pillar 3 which sits within the neck of the bottle and which is formed integrally with the screw cap. The pillar 3 is attached to the bottom 16 of the top cylindrical section either by spokes or by a disc with cut out portions 24. The pillar 3 extends above and below the attachment point 16 and its circumference is dimensioned to correspond with the inner circumference of an aperture 7 through the closure member and it extends to a distance above the attachment point which allows it to fully close the aperture 7 when the closure member 21 is in the closed position. The closure member 21 is slidably movable between a closed and an open position.

The main features of the closure member 21 are: a mouthpiece portion 11; a cylindrical section 17; and two or more leg sections 6. The mouthpiece portion 11 is at the top of the closure member 21 and has an upper surface which is slightly curved in order to allow the top of the aperture to extend into the consumer's mouth when the consumer's lips are in contact with the mouthpiece. The aperture 7 is dimensioned to control the volume of liquid which flows in a given time period. The mouthpiece portion also has a flange 10 which extends beyond the outer circumference of the top cylindrical section 14 of the screw cap member 2. The bottom surface of the flange 10 allows the consumer to grip the closure member 21 and provides a surface area onto which force may be applied when moving the closure member 21 to the open position.

The mouth piece 11 is formed integrally with the

cylindrical section 17 which is dimensioned so that when the closure 21 member is in the closed position the flange 16 rests on top 18 of the screw cap member whilst the bottom of the cylindrical section rests on the spokes 24 which join the central pillar 3 to the rest of the screw cap. The cylindrical section 17 of the closure member 21 fits within the top cylindrical section 14 of the screw cap 2 and has a raised ridge area 9 designed to fit within a corresponding indentation 22 within the top cylindrical section 14 of the screw cap. The ridge/indentation combination are provided to stop the lid member accidentally moving from the closed to open positions. The ridge/indentation combination are sized such that the lid member cannot move freely but can be easily moved by application of force such as can reasonably be applied by hand.

Two or more legs 6, in this case two diametrically opposed legs, extend from the bottom of the cylindrical section through the cut out portions of the disc 24 which attaches the central pillar 3 to the screw cap 2. The legs 6 have tapered shoulders 19 which restrict the travel of the lid member when it is opened and when the top surface of the shoulder contacts the underside of the top of the middle cylindrical section 20 of the screw cap member.

The blister pack 23 consists of a deformable dome 4 which has a frangible seal 5 as its base. The blister pack 23 is attached to the lower section of the legs 6 at a distance which allows the top of the dome of the blister pack to reside just below the central pillar when the closure member is in the closed position. When the closure member is moved towards the open position the dome contacts the pillar and deforms inwardly which subsequently applies sufficient force on the tablet 8 to cause it to rupture the frangible seal 5 and to drop into the liquid contained in the bottle. To ensure that the blister pack 23 is effectively ruptured the distance which the closure member

21 travels from the closed to open positions must be considered in relation to the distance the legs 6 extend below the bottom of the pillar 3, the distance to which the pillar extends below the attachment point 16, and the size
5 of the blister pack.

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A closure cap having a compartment for retaining an additive, the closure cap having a first portion and a body portion defining a push-pull mechanism, said first portion having an aperture, whereby opening of the cap is achieved by pulling said first portion relative to said body portion to an open position, and any additive is released from the compartment, whereby, in use any such additive is released into an associated container having liquid contents, whereafter the contents of the associated container may be dispensed through said aperture, and wherein closing of the closure cap may be achieved by pushing said first portion relative to said body portion to a closed position in which said aperture is closed whereafter spillage of the contents of the associated container will not occur.
2. A closure cap as claimed in claim 1, further having a second portion which is fixed relative to said body portion, and which closes the aperture when said first portion is pushed to the closed position.
3. A closure cap as claimed in claim 2, wherein said second portion engages the compartment as said first portion is pulled towards the open position, thereby causing any additive therein to be released.
4. A closure cap as claimed in claim 2 or claim 3, wherein said second portion is an axial post joined to said body portion of the closure cap by a plurality of struts, the body portion, the struts and the axial post defining a plurality of secondary apertures through which the liquid contents may pass.
5. A closure cap as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said first portion has at least two legs



extending therefrom and connected to the compartment.

6. A closure cap as claimed in claim 5, wherein said
at least two legs have shoulder portions which abut an
5 inner surface of said body portion when said first portion
is in the open position, thereby preventing the first
portion from being detached from the body portion.

7. A closure cap as claimed in any one of claims 1
10 to 6, wherein the compartment has a frangible member which
is ruptured when the closure cap is opened.

8. A closure cap as claimed in any one of claims 1
to 7, wherein the compartment in which any additive is
15 retained is a blister pack.

9. A closure cap as claimed in any one of claims 1
to 7 in combination with an additive.

20 10. A closure cap as claimed in claim 9 wherein the
additive is a tablet.

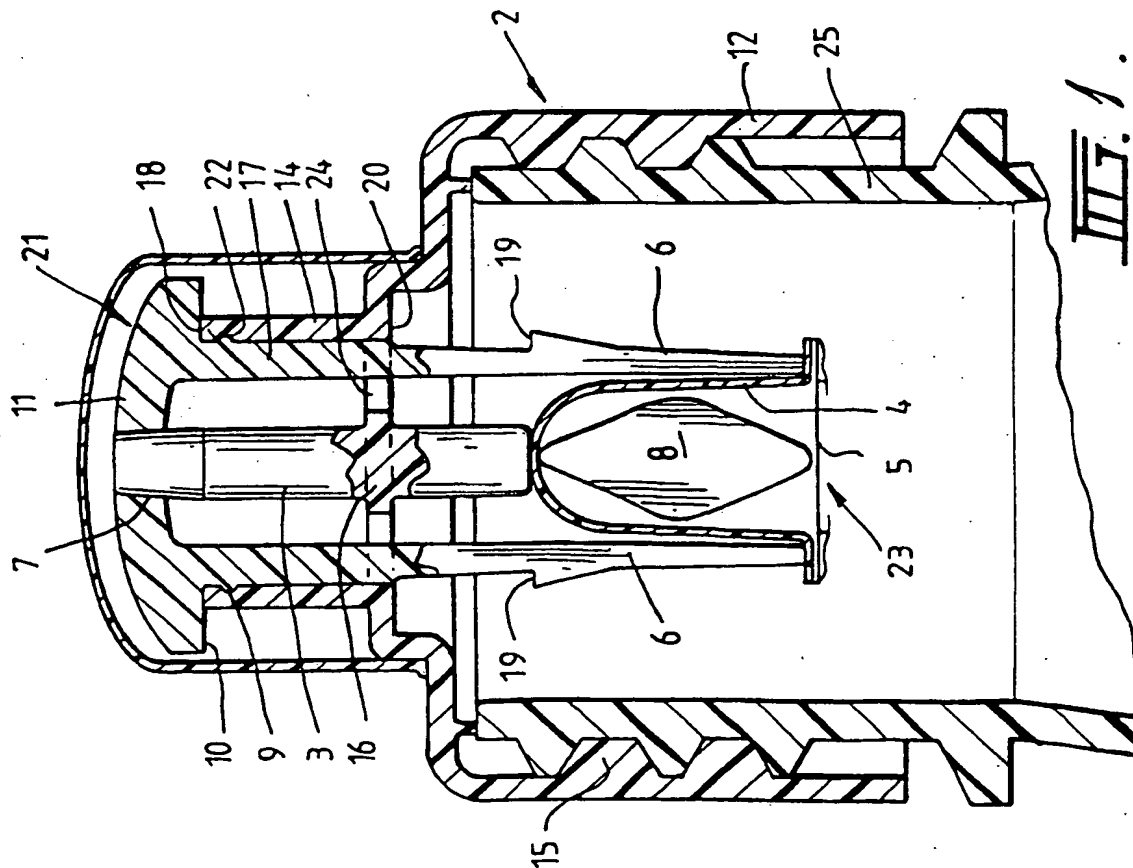
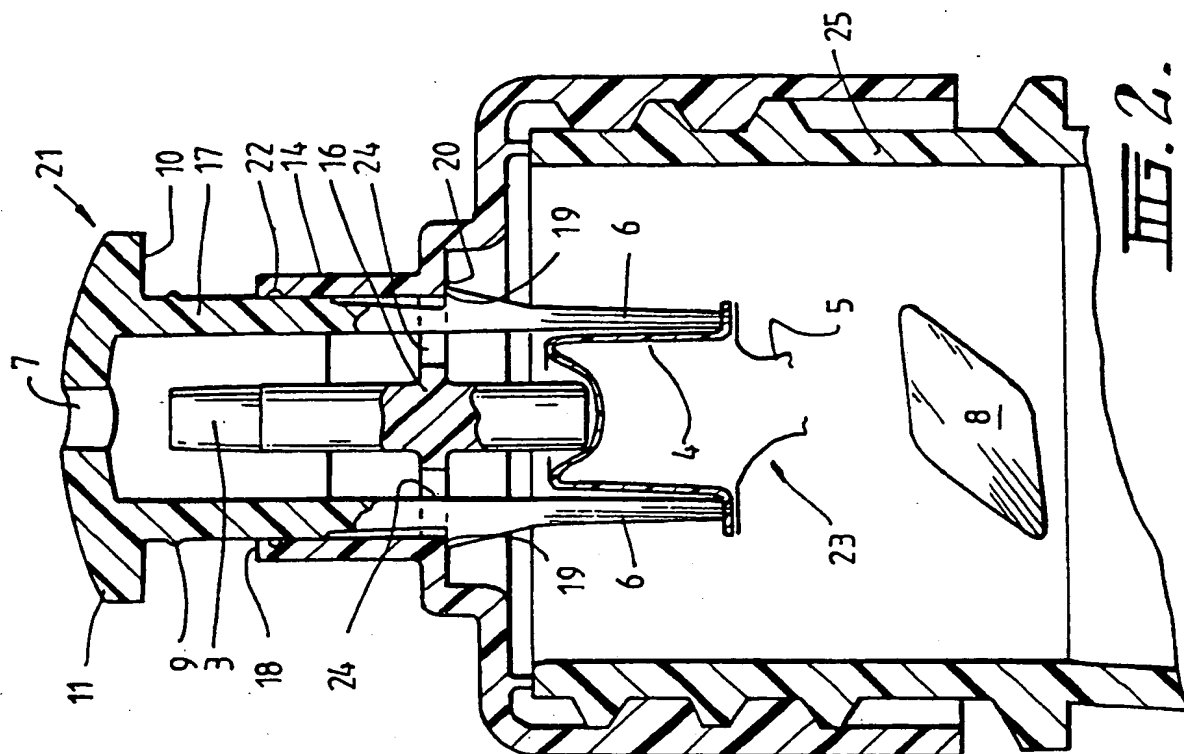
11. A closure cap as claimed in any one of the
preceding claims wherein said first portion may be moved
25 relative to said body portion without said first portion
being rotated relative to said body portion.

12. A closure cap as claimed in any one of the
preceding claims in combination with a container.

30 13. The combination of a closure cap and a container
as claimed in claim 12, wherein the container is a bottle
with a neck and said closure cap is screw-threaded onto
the neck of said bottle.

35 14. A closure cap substantially as hereinbefore
described with reference to the accompanying drawings.





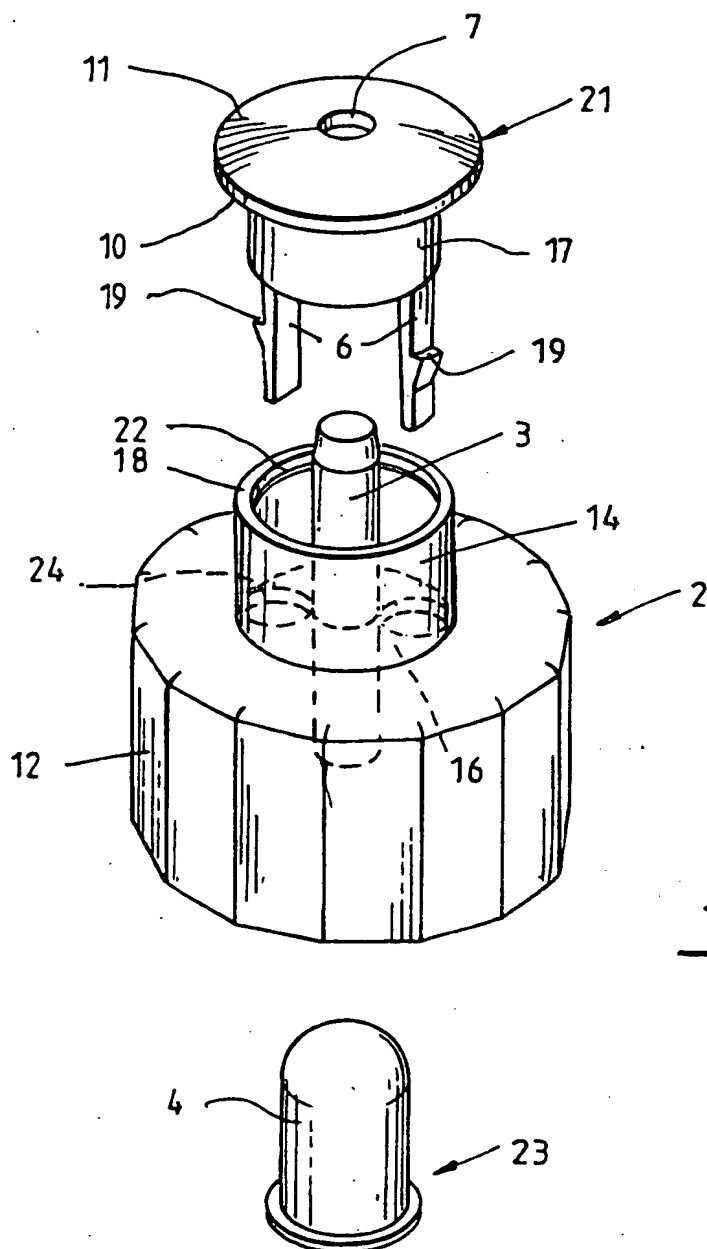


FIG. 3.